Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2070

INFO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

UNCLAS ANKARA 3990

USINFO FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: PEPR. TU. US

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON ECEVIT TRAVEL AND US-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH PRESS MAY 25 PROMINENTLY REPORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTURE OF PRIMIN ECEVIT FOR BELGIUM AND US. MOST PAPERS NOTE THAT ECEVIT RECEIVED AMBASSADOR SPIERS IN BRUSSELS, WITH CUMHURIYET HEADLINING THIS ASPECT OF FIRST DAY OF ECEVIT TRIP. PRESS ALSO HAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE TO STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO DENKTASH STATEMENT. FIRST COMMENTARY ON RECENT JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ALLEGEDLY QUOTING FROM EMBASSY CABLE APPEARED

IN SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN. END SUMMARY.

- 2. PRIMIN ECEVIT'S DEPARTURE FOR BRUSSELS IS LEAD ITEM IN MOST MAJOR TURKISH PAPERS MAY 25. PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET AND MASS APPEAL HURRIYET REPORT DEPARTURE AS IF THE PRIMIN WERE LEAVING FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TRIP. LEFTIST AND GENERALLY ANTI-US CUMHURIYET HEADLINES ITS REPORT OF ECEVIT'S TRIP (ITS LEAD STORY MAY 25), "SPIERS BROUGHT VANCE'S SECRET MESSAGE TO ECEVIT." THE CUMHURIYET STROY CHARACTERIZES THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ECEVIT AS 'UNEXPECTED' AND NOTES THAT NO DETAILS ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE 'MESSAGE' WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN. MILLIYET REPORTS MESSAGE FROM BOTH VANCE AND PRESIDENT CARTER.
- 3. PRESS WIDELY REPORTS COMMENTS OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON DENKTASH STATEMENT, AS WELL AS DENKTASH ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. GUNAYDIN, IN A STORY DATELINED NICOSIA, SAYS THAT GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLEASED WITH THE DENKTASH ASSERTION THAT UP TO 35,000 GREEK CYPRIOTS MAY BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN MARAS AND ARE SAYING THAT THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY DENKTASH SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED. OTHER PAPERS NOTE THAT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU REJECTED THE NEW DENKTASH STATEMENT AS A BASIS UPON WHICH TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS, AND MILLIYET ADDS THAT THE GOC HAS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. THERE IS NO COVERAGE OF JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ON GREECE AND TURKEY IN MAY 25 PRESS. ONLY EDITORIAL NOTED IN SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN. REGULAR COLUMNIST TEOMAN EREL WRITES THAT THE WASHINGTON POST, WHICH REVEALED THE WATERGATE SCANDAL, AND JACK ANDERSON HAVE REPORTED AN ASSESSMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR SPIERS OF AN ECEVIT SPEECH. ACCORDING TO EREL, THE AMBASSADOR SENT A TOP SECRET (SIC) MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY ECEVIT'S CHAUVINISTIC SPEECH. EREL TELLS HIS READERS NOT TO REACT BY CATEGORIZING THE AMBASSADOR AS ANTI-TURKISH, SINCE "OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE CAPABLE OR INCAPABLE, BUT THEY REGULATE THEIR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TOWARD A COUNTRY, SUCH AS TURKEY, NOT ACCORDING TO THEIR GOODNESS OR BADNESS BUT ACCORDING TO THE POLICY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT." EREL CLAIMS THAT COUNTRIES LIKE TURKEY PRESENT TWO DANGERS TO THE US WHICH IT MUST GUARD AGAINST: THE STRENGTHENING OF ANTI-AMERICAN TRENDS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ECONOMY AND EMERGENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ACTING IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST IMPERATIVE. STATES EREL. HE ADDS, "TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION HAS

AWAKENED TO THE FACTS, AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO CONCEAL THE REALITIES, HAS BEGUN TO EXPOSE THE AMERICANS' ACTIVITIES. NOW THE US WILL EIGTHER GIVE UP' ITS ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE TURKISH ECONOMY AND LIFT THE EMBARGO, OR IT WILL BEGIN TO MAKE ATTEMPTS TO STRANGLE TURKISH DEMOCRACY AND FIND A REGIME SYMPATHETIC TO ITSELF IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER BUILD-UP OF ANTI-AMERICAN TRENDS AMONG TURKS. WHEN AMERICA MAKES HER CHOICE IN SUCH CASES, SHE DOES NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO NOBLE CONCEPTS SUCH AS 'FREE WORLD, BANNER OF FREEDOM, AND DEMOCRACY', BUT CONSIDERS ONLY HER OWN INTERESTS. DILLON

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